

**Connecticut 2010 Legislature  
Housing Committee  
Public Hearing, March 4, 2010  
RE: Senate Bill 320**

**Submitted by: Dorian Kreindler, 1 McKenna Court, Wallingford, CT 06492  
Wallingford Housing Authority Tenant**

My name is Dorian Kreindler, and I live at McKenna Court, an elderly/disabled federal housing complex overseen by the Wallingford Housing Authority (WHA). I am co-organizer of the Wallingford Tenant Council and an active member of the Connecticut Public Housing Resident Network. I am here today to speak in support of Senate Bill 320, which calls for tenant representation in the selection of tenant commissioners.

After meeting as part of a McKenna Court resident committee with the WHA Executive Director to institute certain changes that were important to myself and my neighbors without success, I attended a WHA Board of Commissioners meeting on May 28, 2009, where matters concerning my complex were being addressed. There I met Pat Hogan, also a WHA tenant, who likewise was seeking the betterment of conditions at her complex. We joined forces at that time to form a representative resident organization, the Wallingford Tenant Council.

Knowing Pat's commitment to provide an effectual voice for all WHA residents, which previously had not existed with management, I could not help but be intensely dismayed at the exclusion of tenants from participation in electing a tenant commissioner, as well as the election process itself wherein commissioner appointments are, by statute, based on political affiliations rather than competence, concern for tenants' welfare, or righteous stewardship. And no one is potentially better equipped than a tenant commissioner appointed of, by, and for the tenants to counter these inequities and vanquish the second-class citizenship and disempowerment of residents. Unlike all other commissioners, the tenant commissioner has a special view enabling its bearer to reconcile a management and resident perspective in one position. Pat Hogan exemplifies the best leadership attributes and commitment a tenant commissioner can have, yet despite her amazing progress within only a few months of acquiring the position, she is in danger of having her term cut short next October due to the unfairness of the current system.

Your adoption of Senate Bill 320 would constitute a quantum leap in redressing the lack of tenant commissioners who serve as true voices for their charges—while additionally I propose you consider mandating a minimum of two tenant commissioners per every housing board—and I believe your support of this bill would improve not only the lot of public housing residents but the management of public housing properties statewide.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak my heart to you today. God bless you all.